

25 June 1985

Hoppers threaten a \$30 million bite

Orchardmen hope spray repels horde

■ Grasshoppers all over Utah. See story on page B-1.

By Clark H. Caras
Deseret News correspondent

GENOLA — Unless spraying occurs this week to control an invasion of grasshoppers, farmers in southwest Utah County could see their \$30 million-a-year fruit industry endangered, county officials and Lorraine Davis, staff assistant to Rep. Howard Nielson, R-Utah, say.

Farmers and orchardmen in the Goshen, West Mountain and Genola area have been trying to qualify for state or federal assistance in the grasshopper spraying program but learned Saturday they don't qualify, Ms. Davis said.

"They needed to have 10,000 acres of rangeland all in one block, and all we could come up with was about 7,500 acres. So now they say they are going to go ahead and pay for the spraying, including the government land, by themselves," she said.

Ralph Horn, Utah State University extension agent for Utah County, said the fruit industry in that area of the county is worth \$30 million. Utah County commissioners met Monday with county engineers to discuss the problem.

"If the reports about damage that we've been getting are correct, this thing is an immediate concern to us," said Commissioner



PHOTOGRAPHY/ GARY McKELLAR

Vanguard of hopper army looks relatively harmless, but farmers in southwest Utah County hear whirring of hordes.

Jeril Wilson.

Lynn Fowers, Genola, said that on Thursday night he lost more than 150 trees in his apple and peach orchard on the west side of West Mountain.

"I went back in the next morning

and sprayed, and if I hadn't done that, they would have had the whole orchard. It was a horrifying thing to see them all covering the trunks and branches of the trees," Fowers said.

Fowers and his wife, Sheryl, organized the fruit growers and

ranchers in the area to petition the government for help.

"If we don't get some help right now or do it ourselves, we're going to lose everything. All we've been getting is the runaround, so now I guess it's up to us," Fowers said.

Mrs. Fowers said that because of the help of Ms. Davis and Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the Provo office of the Bureau of Land Management, which owns the majority of the 7,500 acres, has agreed to provide the spray.

See GRASSHOPPER on U-2

Grasshopper

Continued from U-1

"They will give us enough spray to cover their ground, but we still have to pay the private sprayer to take care of it. We weren't looking to have the government spray our ground. We've been good stewards of our properties, and all we're asking is that the government be the same with theirs," Mrs. Fowers said.

The estimated cost of paying for the spraying of the government property by the farmers is more than \$15,000, Mrs. Fowers said. "We're just a small group of people trying to make a living. And paying for theirs besides ours is going to be hard," she said.

The Fowers contend that the grasshoppers have hatched on BLM property on the top of West Mountain and are now moving into the private rangeland and orchards.

"We've been spraying our own property for years, but their property (federal government) has just sat there, and now there are so many grasshoppers up there they are migrating toward the water in Utah Lake. Everyone's been spraying, and is spraying, except the government, and it's their problem," Mrs. Fowers said.

On Saturday a representative of the Environmental Protection Agency met with the farmers and ranchers, Fowers said. "He told us those things, when they start flying, can migrate anywhere from 50 to 100 miles. We think they should be stopped here before they start flying and end up in downtown Provo," Fowers said.

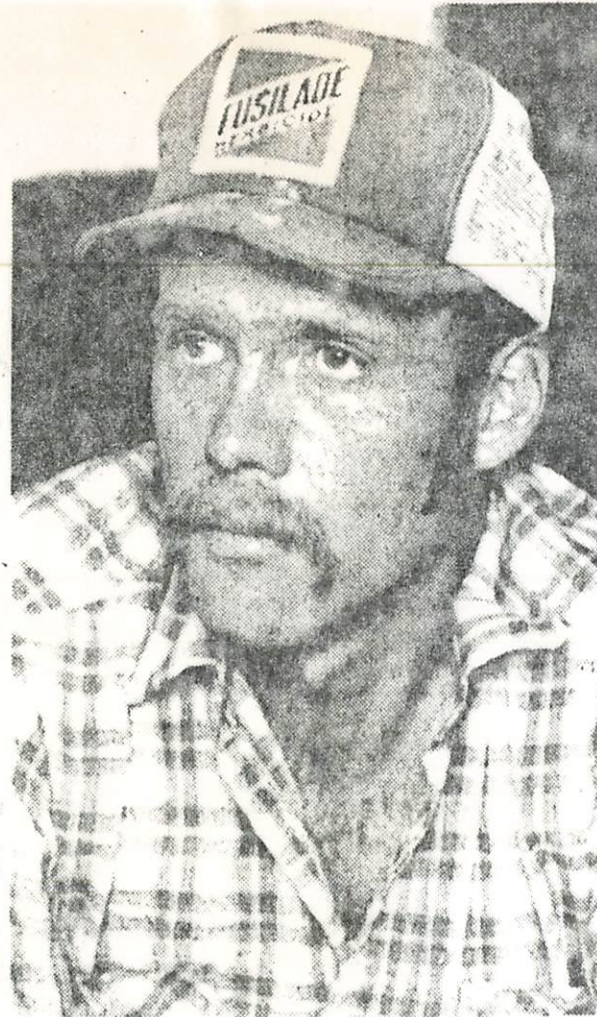
Unless the spraying takes place this week, the Fowers and others would have to postpone harvesting their cherry crops, which she said they cannot do.

"They've got to stop them now. They are already starting to fly and what's going to happen to all those people in Lake Shore and Benjamin and eventually Provo? What's the government going to do when these things end up in downtown Provo?" Mrs. Fowers said.

Horn said he is aware that the grasshoppers can migrate great distances but said he had no information on whether the insects would possibly move north into Provo.

Ms. Davis said all that stands in the way of the farmers from starting their own spraying program is the signing of releases by the federal government, county and any other private landowners involved.

"They've got the planes lined up and just waiting to go. I think that by at least Wednesday we'll have it all under control and they can start their spraying. We're hurrying



Lynn Fowers says he has lost 150 trees.

as fast as we can because those poor people just can't wait any longer."

In an effort to stop the progression of the grasshoppers Fowers was given permission last week to burn several hundred acres around his orchards near Utah Lake.

"I think it's terrible that we've got to pay for the spraying of government land in order to save ours. It's their land where the grasshoppers are coming from. I guess what I need to do is put in a good word with the sea gulls," Fowers said.

1985
Heavy
Grasshoppers
in
certain
areas

Grasshoppers Invade

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Technically, they're known as "acrididae."

You might just call them plain, old grasshoppers.

Farmer Bernt Ward of Westby in northeast Montana has another name for them. So does farmer John Stratford of the Billings area.

The bottom line for them and thousands of other farmers in plagued areas throughout the West is economic disaster as hordes of marauding grasshoppers fatten themselves at record rates on already drought-stressed crops.

Hundreds of hoppers hop with every step as Stratford disgustedly walks through a field of wheat, what's left of it.

"I won't have to harvest, way it looks," he says.

Ironically, the crop he planted last fall was killed by severe winter weather. The spring crop he replanted is being devastated by the hoppers, despite spraying hundreds of acres.

Ward, a Sheridan County commissioner who farms near Westby, says hopper damage was so bad to one field of spring wheat that he reseeded 110 acres and "they ate it as fast as it came up — they really like the tender, juicy stuff."

Ward has been farming for 24 years on land just south of the Canadian border and a bit west of North Dakota. "This is the worst I've ever seen," he said last week.

Weather conditions over wide areas of the West have helped spawn one of the worst outbreaks of grasshoppers ever seen. The hotter and drier it gets, the better the grasshoppers like it.

In Montana, the infestation is the worst in memory for many. "Worst ever" in Idaho. An aerial "war" under way in Utah. "Absolutely ridiculous" in Wyoming. "Devastating" in western North Dakota. Equally bad in drought areas of South Dakota. Problems also in Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington.

Draw a line from Canada south through the western third of the Dakotas, all the way to New Mexico, then west to central Oregon and Washington, and you have the worst infestation. And the worst may yet be coming as the latest "hatches" mature, get hungry and go crop hunting.

If it's green and moist, grasshoppers love it, particularly the "short-horned" species noted for their voracity and mobility.

In Idaho, an emergency has been declared and a full-scale battle has been in full swing for weeks, but spray planes haven't been able to keep up with the onslaught.

Officials there expect to spray some 5 million acres, in some cases too late to avert this year's damage but in hopes of stunting next year's "hopper hatch." Already an estimated \$10 million has been spent.

Says Idaho Agriculture Director Richard Rush: "One of these years we're hoping for the cool, wet spring that will cut down on the grasshoppers."

The federal government, which recently released another \$15 million for a total of \$25 million to spray rangeland against grasshoppers, says if at least eight grasshoppers are concentrated per square yard it is "severe infestation" and enough to cause economic problems for farmers and ranchers.

Some areas in Idaho, Montana and Colorado have reported more than a hundred hoppers per yard — sometimes too many to count.

"There's a helluva pile of 'em out there," commented Keith Kelly, Montana's agriculture director. "They're growing and they're moving to find feed, any green crop," he said, including grass, weeds, grain, hay.

"The drought conditions are just ideal" for hoppers, he added. "The damp, cool weather just didn't come this spring."

Kelly said some farmers have been so stressed economically that they can't afford to invest more money in poor crops to save them from grasshoppers. It costs from \$2 to \$6 an acre to spray and some farmers have had to spray fields three times.


The infestation has become a "double-edged sword," according to George Algard of Montana's agriculture department. In drought areas where crops generally are the worst, so are the infestations of grasshoppers. "It's really severe in those areas," he said. "Conditions are bad."

The grasshopper war has prompted declarations of emergency and "hopper wars" throughout the affected western states.



The Daily Herald

12TH YEAR, NO. 295 PROVO, UTAH, THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1946 \$6.00 A MONTH -- PRICE 25 CENTS



Ralph Woodhouse waves a marker flag as his brother makes another pass to spray insecticide in the West Mountain area.

Feds join grasshopper fight

By LISA MOTE
Herald Staff Writer

1986

Farmers' pleas to the U.S. Department of Agriculture paid off and airplanes are spraying insecticide on grasshoppers on about 10,000 acres of grasslands in Utah County.

Dan Hamon, plant protection and quarantine officer for the department, said officials decided to spray because they got "a lot of urging by farmers raising crops around West Mountain."

"They've had a large grasshopper population on and around the mountain last year and this," he said.

Last year the grasshopper problem was worse than ever before so farmers and the department were prepared for the same this year, Hamon said. Because of last year's spraying and the spring weather, however, the problem is not as bad.

The Department of Agriculture planned to spray the mountains with Malathion for four or five days, he said. The spraying costs have not yet been determined.

Sherryl Fowers, an orchard owner in Genola, said last year more than \$100,000 of damage was done to crops, trees and farms because of the grasshoppers. Grasshoppers could destroy 200

young trees in 12 hours, she said. In addition, they would take one bite out of a young peach, which made it unsalable when it was ripe.

Orchard growers tried to control the insects within the croplands, but more grasshoppers would hatch on surrounding government property.

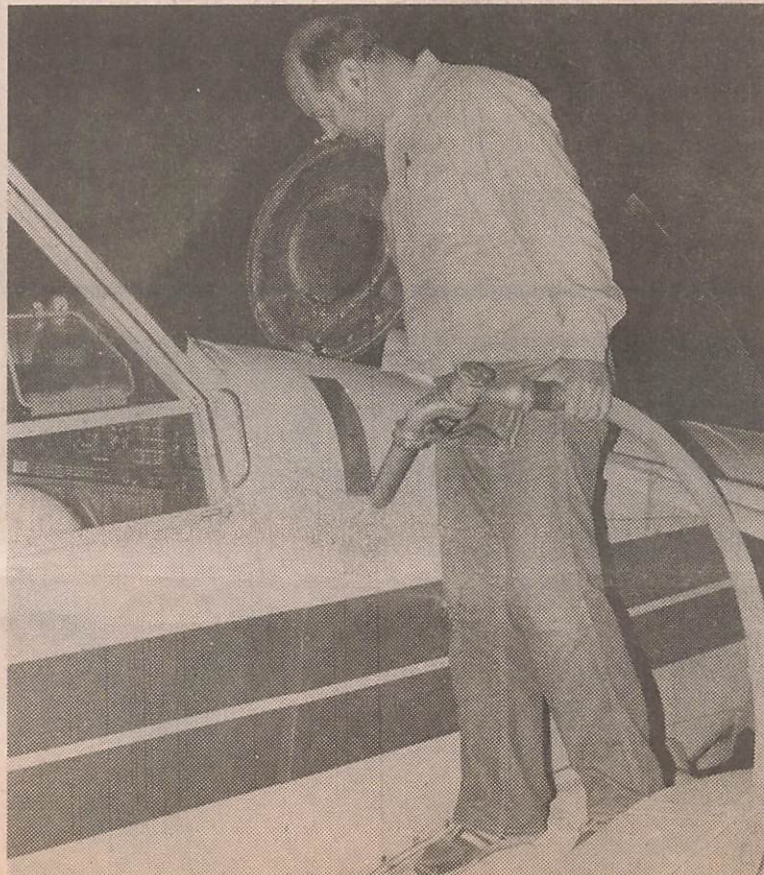
"They were hatching so fast we couldn't keep on top of it," Fowers said. "We felt like, 'this isn't right. We're taking care of our stewardship; but the government isn't.'"

Spraying by the Department of Agriculture was delayed because the Provo River where the June Sucker, an endangered species, lives was within a 10-mile radius of West Mountain, he said.

Finally the spraying was permitted, but farmers had to apply the spray themselves because B-52 bombers could not work in an area where they had to fly over water (Utah Lake), Fowers said.

There was almost a 100 percent kill of grasshoppers last year after the spraying, she said.

She had hoped to put 80 acres of her cherry and peach orchards in for aerial spraying, she said. Because of the delay, her husband had to spray the cherries last week so only 20 acres of their peaches were sprayed in the program.



Dennis Patterson Photo

Allen Woodhouse got up early to get his cropduster ready for another day of fighting grasshoppers. The Woodhouse brothers' firm has a contract for spraying in Utah County.

People

By WILLIAM C. TROTT
United Press International

MADDOX'S FORECAST — NOT AS HELL: The South is staggering through a hellish heat wave and drought and **Lester Maddox's** explanation for it has nothing to do with meteorology. "America is not exercising what God requires and this drought could well be a punishment for our disobedience," said Georgia's former segregationist governor. "I really believe our people have to get on their knees or we're going to have a hell on Earth." Maddox, now a real estate broker, says the drought is like the biblical plagues. "We've heard some of the ministers talking about homosexuals being punished by God with the disease AIDS but this drought may well be a punishment for everyone's immorality," he says. "I predict we're not going to have any bath water by October." On another topic, Maddox accused fellow Georgian **Ted Turner** of hanging out with "commie buddies" at his Goodwill Games in Moscow. "Ted Turner may as well consider taking up permanent citizenship, either in Cuba or Moscow," he said.

SINGING FOR SARAH: Los Angeles-born soprano **Arleen Auger** will be one of two soloists to take part in the wedding of **Prince Andrew** and **Sarah Ferguson** at Westminster Abbey July 3. Auger will sing Mozart's "Exsultate, Jubilate" following the exchange of vows while the royal couple are signing the marriage register. The other soloist will be British soprano **Felicity Lott** who will sing during the ceremony. Auger, who began her career at the Vienna State Opera nearly 20 years ago, is one of the most recorded concert and opera stars in the world, with 140 records to her credit. She will make her operatic debut in her hometown in Handel's "Alcina" next November.

ED-HEADS UNITE: Live Ed is a rock 'n' roll fundraiser of a different color. The purpose of the Thursday night show in Dallas is to retire the \$15,000 debt of the **Mr. Ed Fan Club**, an organization that preserves the memory of TV's talking horse. Organizer **James "Big Bucks" Burnett** says **Alan Young**, who played Mr. Ed's pal Wilbur, will attend and Burnett will read a letter from **Connie Hines**, who played Wilbur's wife. "Live Ed screamed to be done the day they had Live Aid," Burnett said. He also solicited a contribution from Ohio evangelist **Jim Brown**, who claims the chirpy "Mr. Ed" theme song contains satanic messages when played backward. "We've asked him to send a videotaped message on the subject of Ed and Satan," Burnett says. "And at the stroke of midnight, we are going to play the theme song backward to let people draw their own conclusions," Burnett says. **Jay Livingston**, who wrote and sang the original theme, has sent a cassette of the song with reworked lyrics to fit Live Ed.

GETTING SACKED STILL HURTS JOE: **Joe Namath** is still a little stunned that ABC cut him from the "Monday Night Football" broadcast team but he wants to stay in sportscasting. "I'm certainly disappointed because I had some good games and the ratings were up 17 percent (actually 16 percent)," Broadway Joe told the New Haven Register in an interview at his football camp in Hamden, Conn. "It baffles me. I'm under contract to them and I'm not doing anything else in sports. I certainly am disappointed because I loved the job and I was starting to feel good about it." Namath denied that he was too easy on the players or was merely acting in the booth. "I was not trying to be Sky Masterson or Bill Starbuck — some of the characters I've played. I just wanted to be Joe Namath," he said.



Boy George (center) along with his brother Kevin O'Dowd are in the middle of a drug investigation by Scotland Yard.

Oh, Boy, trying to drugs and cops

LONDON (UPI) — A doctor helping British pop star Boy George kick a reported drug habit has warned the singer to give up heroin "if you want to live," the Daily Mirror newspaper said today.

In a saga that has dominated Britain's big dailies for the second day in a row, police said they will let him off the hook until he recovers sufficiently.

Boy George has been undergoing therapy at a secret location since Monday with Dr. Meg Patterson, whose special electrical pulse treatment has been credited with curing such rock greats as Eric Clapton and Who lead guitarist Pete Townshend of drug addiction.

The Mirror quoted Patterson as giving Boy George the message: "Give up heroin now if you want to live. Otherwise you could be dead, not in eight weeks, but tomorrow."

"Cold Turkey for Boy George," said a banner headline in the Daily

Express describing the treatment, which is expected to last at least one month.

The police and spokesmen for his Virgin Records company declined to say where he was being treated.

Scotland Yard had sought the 27-year-old George — whose real name is George O'Dowd — for questioning in a drug probe for more than 24 hours before his company disclosed he was being treated, apparently for heroin addiction.

"Since our appeal for Boy George to come forward, we have been informed he is undergoing medical treatment," said a spokesman at London's Scotland Yard police headquarters.

"For that reason, we feel it would not be appropriate to interview him until that treatment is complete," he said.

Virgin Records said George, known for his outlandish and often girlish dress, was put under

Evaluation for man after to open door of airline

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A man who was subdued by passengers and crew when he allegedly tried to open the door of a jetliner during a flight from Honolulu was held for psychiatric observation, authorities said.

Panicked passengers tackled the man and tied him with belts, neckties and cords from their headsets when attempts to open the cabin door set off an alarm aboard the United Airlines DC-10, en route to Los Angeles, officials said.

Eric Reed, 25, of Philadelphia, was taken to the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center psychiatric ward. Los Angeles police Sgt. Tom Hollingshead said Wednesday.

Reed was arrested by FBI agents Tuesday night at Los Angeles International Airport and booked for investigation of interfering with a flight crew, said FBI

United's Flight 188 on Tuesday night when the plane was cruising at 32,000 feet, about 90 minutes from Los Angeles.

The incident began when a flight attendant told some

Aid for be

The parents of a 6-year old boy worried that their son would outgrow his bed-wetting. No attempt to solve the problem — such as restricting fluids, reward, punishment, — had worked. Meanwhile, the boy was growing very conscious and unable to spend the night with friends for fear of wetting their bed.

Keith Brown, V.P. of Travis Co., cited as a typical example of the family struggle with enuresis (bed-wetting), said 5 to 10 million children suffering from enuresis wet their bed.

An electronics technician, Brown invented the product to combat

